

Language and Culture

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Class time T.F.12.45, 221/225
Office hours: T. 3-5pm.
Credit: 3.0 credits

Course description

This course introduces the students with one of the four traditional fields of Anthropology - Linguistic Anthropology - as “the study of language as a cultural resource and speaking as a cultural practice”. The aim of this course is to understand the crucial role played by language in the constitution of the society and its cultural representations.

Our course will be based on ethnolinguistic approach, which means all linguistic structures will be analyzed as used by real people in real time and real place. And speakers first of all are social actors of particular communities, each organized in a variety of social institutions and with sets of expectations, beliefs, and moral values about the world.

Topics include linguistic relativity hypothesis of Sapir and Whorf, performance theory, language ideology, Language and Socialization, Language and Power, Language and moral values, Language and racism, Language and Ethnic conflict, Language and Cultural Contact, the politics of mono-and multi-lingualism etc.

Course Objectives

- Becoming familiar with the domain of linguistic anthropology within the traditional four-field approach to anthropology
- Developing a fundamental understanding of the major concepts, terminology, and analytic approaches used in linguistic anthropology;
- Becoming familiar with the most important research in this field
- Having the knowledge and skills to discuss the major issues in the field

Classroom Policy

- Please be sure to turn off cell phones before class begins.
- Please come on time and plan to stay to the end of the class session; late arrivals and early departures can be disruptive and disrespectful to your peers and your instructor. Late arrivals or early departures may result in the student not receiving credit for participation that day.
- Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance and Participation (30%) .Regular attendance is very important. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by 2 % . Each student is expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to class and to make regular, constructive contributions to class discussions.

Reflection paper on 2 articles (2 pages each -30%).: Students are expected to write two reflection papers on ethnographic articles, which will be recommended by the instructor, from “A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology”/ edited by Alessandro Duranti. Blackwell Publishing 2006

The students will be asked to highlight what was the main research question and what data a researcher collected, what techniques were used, how collected data was analyzed, what conclusion a researcher made. A student also can comment strong and weak sides of the research.

Midterm exam (20%) will include 10 short answer and 1 essay questions based on reading materials.

Final exam (20%). At the end of week 16 there will be Final exam, with short answer (10)and essay questions(1) based on course materials

Course readings:

All readers are available at AUCA course website. Additional readings will be distributed in the class. Students are expected to come to all classes having completed the assigned readings.

- Alessandro Duranti, Linguistic Anthropology. Cambridge University Press 1997.
- Linguistic Anthropology: reader. Edited by Alessandro Duranti .Blackwell Publishing 2001.
- A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology/ edited by Alessandro Duranti. Blackwell Publishing 2006
- Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000
- Zdenek Salzman. Language ,Culture and Society. West view Press. 2004.
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Additional readings:

- Hudson R.A.Sociolinguistics.CambridgeUniversity Press.2001.p.1-17.
- Wardhaugh R.An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.Blackwell Publishing.2006.p.1-23.
- Carol Eastman.Aspects of language and Culture.University of Washington.1985.p.3-23.

Lecture Topics:

Introduction: course aims, course topics and materials, course design, course requirements
Alessandro Duranti, Linguistic Anthropology. Cambridge University Press 1997.p 1-13
Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000. p 44-50
Zdenek Salzman.Language ,Culture and Society.Westview Press.2004.p 1-18.
Carol Eastman.Aspects of language and Culture.University of Washington.1985.p.3-23.

Speech community and Communicative competence

Linguistic Anthropology: reader. Edited by Alessandro Duranti .Blackwell Publishing 2001.
p 43-52
Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000.p
Zdenek Salzman.Language ,Culture and Society.Westview Press.2004.p 225-244
Wardhaugh R.An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.Blackwell Publishing.2006.p.242-260

Language variation

Linguistic Anthropology: reader. Edited by Alessandro Duranti .Blackwell Publishing 2001 p.
450-464
Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000.146-163
Zdenek Salzman.Language ,Culture and Society.Westview Press.2004.p 167-196
Hudson R.A.Sociolinguistics.CambridgeUniversity Press.2001.p.20-68.
Wardhaugh R. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Blackwell Publishing.2006.p.135-161

Nonverbal communication

A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology/ edited by Alessandro Duranti. Blackwell Publishing
2006, 197-222
Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000.p 34-41
Zdenek Salzman.Language ,Culture and Society.Westview Press.2004.p 246-269
Hudson R.A.Sociolinguistics.CambridgeUniversity Press.2001.p.136-144

Color terms.

Linguistic Anthropology: reader. Edited by Alessandro Duranti .Blackwell Publishing 2001.
p 65-67
Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000.p 57-59
Wardhaugh R.An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.Blackwell Publishing.2006.p.235-236
Carol Eastman.Aspects of language and Culture.University of Washington.1985.p.100-101

Language and kinship.

Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000
Wardhaugh R.An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Blackwell Publishing.2006.p.221-235
Zdenek Salzman.Language, Culture and Society.Westview Press.

Language and Gender

Linguistic Anthropology: reader. Edited by Alessandro Duranti .Blackwell Publishing
p. 420-430
2001Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000.p
186-218
Hudson R.A.Sociolinguistics.CambridgeUniversity Press.2001.102-104, 140-144
Zdenek Salzman.Language ,Culture and Society.Westview Press.2004.p 208-213
Wardhaugh R.An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.Blackwell Publishing.2006.p. 315-335

Language policy

A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology/ edited by Alessandro Duranti. Blackwell Publishing
2006,p 496-517
Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000.p 306-
343

Luke O'Callaghan. War of words: Language policy in post independence
Kazakhstan. Tsentralnaia Azia I kultura mira. 1-2. 2005. p.104-123

Midterm exam

Week 8 fall break

Oral Folklor and Spoken art

Zdenek Salzmann. Language, Culture and Society. Westview Press. 2004. p 271-292

Carol Eastman. Aspects of language and Culture. University of Washington. 1985. p.125-127

Linguistic Anthropology in the Contemporary World

Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages. 2000. 385-429

Zdenek Salzmann. Language, Culture and Society. Westview Press. 2004. p 292-311

Hudson R. A. Sociolinguistics. Cambridge University Press. 2001.

Wardhaugh R. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Blackwell Publishing. 2006.

Final exam.

Seminar materials:

- The Gift of Tongues, Stephen Wurm, the UNESCO Courier, February 1994.
- Forms of Address: How Their Social Functions may vary Salikoko S. Mufwene
 - Language and Communication. Videofilm by Alejandro Mamani.
- David S Thomson. The Sapir – Whorf Hypothesis: Worlds shaped by Words.
- Deborah Tannen. Conversation Style: Talking on the Job
- Conrad Kottak. Teleconditioning and the Postmodern classroom
- Keith H Basso . To give up on Words: Silence in Western Apache Culture
- Language, Appearance, and Reality: Doublespeak in ,William D. Lutz, Et Cetera, Winter 1987
- Racist Stereotyping in the English Language, Robert B. Moore, Racism and Sexism: An Integrated Study, Paul S. Rothenberg (ed.) St. Martin's Press, 1988
- A Cross-Cultural Experience: A Chinese Anthropologist in the United States, Huang Shu-min, from Distant Mirrors; America as a Foreign Culture, Wadsworth Publishing, 1993.
- The Language of Clothes, Alison Lurie, Human Ecology, Spring 1991.
- A Cultural Approach to Male-Female Miscommunication Daniel N. Maltz and Ruth A. Borker (from Language and Social Identity, 1982)
- Language, Race, and White Public Space Jane H. Hill
- John Gumperz and Sephen Levinson . Rethinking Linguistic Relativity
- Luke O'Callaghan. War of words: Language policy in post independence
Kazakhstan. Tsentralnaia Azia I kultura mira. 1-2. 2005. p.104-123